

I. Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces, without prejudice, all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system for communication between a base station and a plurality of subscriber stations comprising a channel structure for the plurality of subscriber stations to communicate with the base station, the channel structure including:

a plurality of bi-directional dedicated channels; and

a bi-directional user control channel,

wherein a first subscriber station, when activated within the communication system, is allocated a dedicated portion of the user control channel, but when a dedicated channel is established between the first subscriber station and the base station, then the dedicated portion of the user control channel ~~allocated to the subscriber station~~ is de-allocated from the first subscriber station until the dedicated channel is de-allocated from the first subscriber station.

16. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication system of claim 15, wherein ~~each~~ the user control channel transmits data in frames divided into time slots and the dedicated portion of the user control channel ~~allocated to a subscriber station~~ includes

a time slot in the frames transmitted over the user control channel.

Claims 17-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system of claim 15, wherein power control information is transmitted via the user control channel.

21. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system of claim 15, wherein firmware upgrades are transmitted via the user control channel.

22. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system of claim 15, wherein the channel structure further includes a broadcast packet data channel and wherein acknowledgements for receipt of a packet from the broadcast packet data channel are transmitted from a receiving subscriber station to the base station via the user control channel.

23. (New) A wireless communication system for communication between a base station and a plurality of subscriber stations, the system comprising a channel structure for the plurality of subscriber stations to communicate with the base station, the channel structure including:

a plurality of bi-directional dedicated channels; and

at least one bi-directional user control channel,

wherein a first subscriber station, when activated within the communication

system, is allocated a portion of a user control channel, which portion is dedicated to at least the first subscriber station and less than all of the plurality of subscriber stations, but when a dedicated channel is established between the first subscriber station and the base station, then the portion of the user control channel dedicated to the first subscriber station is de-allocated from the first subscriber station until the dedicated channel is de-allocated from the first subscriber station.

24. (New) The wireless communication system of claim 23, wherein the user control channel transmits data in frames divided into time slots and the portion of the user control channel that is dedicated to the first subscriber station includes a time slot in the frames transmitted over the user control channel.

25. (New) The wireless communication system of claim 24, wherein the subscriber stations to which a time slot is dedicated share use of that time slot by alternately employing it in successive frames.

26. (New) The wireless communication system of claim 24, wherein the time slot is designated as a random access slot for the subscriber stations to which it is dedicated.